

Message Text

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ACTION OS-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 SCA-01 FBO-01 AID-20 /039 W

----- 078980

R 220900Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4885

UNCLAS TEHRAN 9015

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH, IR

SUBJECT: TEHRAN AMERICAN SCHOOL

REF: STATE 243958

1. EMBASSY FULLY SUPPORTS SCHOOL'S EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE LAND.

2. SCHOOL HAS COUNSEL. INASMUCH AS SCHOOL IS NOT A LEGAL ENTITY AND WAS ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED AS A COMPONENT OF EMBASSY BY SERIES OF NOTES BETWEEN EMBASSY AND GOI, NO ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION IS POSSIBLE. THE SCHOOL, FACING LIKELY ENROLLMENT UP TO 4000 BY 1975, DOES NOT WISH TO ENRICH LANDLORDS BY ERECTING LARGE PHYSICAL PLANTS ON LXASED PROPERTY. NEITHER LOCAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS NOR LOCAL AMERICAN BUSINESSES WILL FINANCE PROJECT ON LEASED LAND. USG MUST THEREFORE ACCEPT TITLE.

3. EXPANDED FACILITIES TO ACCOMMODATE SECONDARY STUDENTS ON LEASED PORTION PROPOSED NEW SITE ARE 70 PERCENT FINISHED. OTHER BUILDINGS MUST BE STARTED BY FEBRUARY IF WE ARE TO ACCOMMODATE FULL STUDENT BODY FALL SEMESTER 1974. PART OF DESIRED PARCEL OF LAND IS COMPOSED OF GOI TRUST LANDS, USE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GRANTED TO SCHOOL BY PRIME MINISTER. A FURTHER PART CAN BE LEASED OR PURCHASED FROM OWNER OF LAND ON WHICH NEW BUILDINGS ARE BEING ERECTED. TOTAL PARCEL MEASURES ABOUT 200,000 SQ METERS.

4. MATTERS HAVE PROGRESSED TO THE POINT WHERE AMBASSADOR SHOULD SOON APPROACH GOI ON MATTER OF USG ACQUIRING TITLE.

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PROCEDURE IS FOR EMBASSY TO REQUEST, THROUGH FONOFF,

AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE WHICH IN TURN REQUESTS DECISION FROM COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. ALTERNATIVELY, AMBASSADOR CAN APPROACH PRIME MINISTER AND EXPLORE POSSIBILITY USG BEING GIVEN LAND BY GOI, SINCE PRECEDENTS EXIST IN GOI DEED OF LAND TO GERMAN AND FRENCH SCHOOLS. GOI SHOULDN'T BE DISINTERESTED IN THIS PROCEDURE SINCE IT WOULD ACTUALLY REDUCE FUNDS IT NOW CONTRIBUTES TOWARDS EDUCATION USG MILITARY ADVISORY PERSONNEL CHILDREN.

5. EMBASSY APPRECIATES POSITIVE, ENCOURAGING ATTITUDE SHOWN IN REFTEL AND REQUESTS GUIDANCE PROMISED THEREIN.
HELMS

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